

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SWF-02 DRC-01 /166 W

----- 119198

R 280830Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0890

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C M N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4099

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, ID, MY, SN, TH, JA

SUBJ: SECOND ASEAN-JAPAN EXPERTS MEETING ON SYNTHETIC RUBBER

1. SECOND ASEAN-JAPAN EXPOERTS MEETING ON SYNTHETIC RUBBER  
HELD IN TOKYO MARCH 18 TO 20. ON MARCH 27 EMBOFF REVIEWED RE-  
SULT OF MEETING WITH TAKANO, DEPUTY HEAD, REGIONAL POLICY DIV,  
ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF, WHO PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ASS-  
ESSMENT:

2. MEETING PRODUCED THREE TANGIBLE RESULTS: A) GOJ AGREEMENT  
GIVE APPROPRIATE QTE GUIDANCE UNQTE TO JAPANESE SYNTHETIC  
RUBBER INDUSTRY REGARDING PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC POLYISO-  
PRENE RUBBER SO AS TO AVOID DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON NATURAL  
RUBBER MARKET; B) GOJ AGREEMENT PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
TO ASEAN COUNTRIES TO HELP THEM DEVELOP NEW USES FOR NATURAL  
RUBBER; AND C) AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE  
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WITH YEARLY MEETING AT EXPERTS' LEVEL IF CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD

REQUIRE.

3. ACCORDING TAKANO, ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING WAS GENUINELY CORDIAL. PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR JAPANESE SIDE WAS ACTIVE ROLE AS MEDIATOR PLAYED BY MALAYSIAN DELEGATE, WHICH CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. IN FONOFF VIEW, ASEAN DELEGATES WERE ANXIOUS THAT MEETING PRODUCE TANGIBLE RESULTS WHICH COULD BE REPORTED TO ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY. THIS DESIRE, TOGETHER WITH GOJ ATTITUDE OF ACCOMMODATION, ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO RESULTS OF MEETING.

4. DESPITE FOREGOING, TAKANO SAID FONOFF DOES NOT BELIEVE PROBLEM NOW SOLVED ONCE AND FOR ALL. MEANING OF QTE GUIDANCE UNATE REFERRED TO PARA 2 A ABOVE NOT CLEAR, BUT TAKANO SAID IT DID NOT MEAN THAT JAPANESE PRODUCTION OF POLYISOPRENE WOULD BE REDUCED. TO CONTRARY, PRODUCTION LIKELY TO INCREASE EVEN WITHOUT CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES BECAUSE PRESENT FACILITIES OPERATING WELL BELOW CAPACITY, AND PRODUCTION INCREASE IN ITSELF WILL BE OF CONCERN TO ASEAN COUNTRIES. FOR PRESENT, FONOFF HOPING THAT, AT LEAST, ANY REFERENCE TO SYNTHETIC RUBBER PROBLEM IN COMMUNIQUE OF FORTHCOMING ASEAN MINISTERIAL WILL BE MORE MODERATE THAN LAST YEAR'S. SHOESMITH

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